

REMARKS

I. Formalities

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating acceptance of the drawings filed on August 16, 2004.

II. Status of the Application

By the present Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 1-9. Claims 10-23 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 10-13, 15-17, and 19-20 have been rejected. Claims 14, 18, and 21 have been withdrawn. The present Amendment addresses each point of rejection raised by the Examiner. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

III. Interview Summary

On April 30, 2007, Examiner Lee conducted a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney of record for the present application. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that he will withdraw the rejection of claims 10-13, 15-17, and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Under a new policy at the USPTO, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is rendered moot. The new policy is described in a memorandum issued by the USPTO, which the Examiner indicated that he will reference in the reasons for allowance. The Examiner also indicated that the present application will be allowable upon Applicants' canceling of the non-elected claims.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 10-13, 15-17, and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is rendered moot by current USPTO policy, as discussed with the Examiner during the telephone

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interview of April 30, 2007, and that the original rejection is overcome by the patentability arguments submitted on January 29, 2007.

IV. Request for Rejoinder

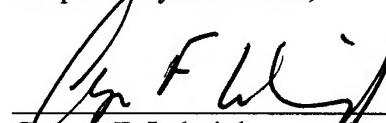
Applicants request that withdrawn claims 14, 18, and 21 be rejoined by virtue of their respective dependencies on allowable claims 10 and 15.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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